

Grass Types for the Houston Area

By: Melinda Sperl

In a typical neighborhood, the houses are built, the grass is planted with small trees and all is well until the trees age and kills the grass with their shade. Many homeowners trim their trees to skeletons just to keep their grass alive which is truly harmful for the trees. Instead of killing the trees try another solution, change the type of grass!

St Augustine grass is the most shade tolerant of the lawn grasses and Raleigh St Augustine is by far the most common type used. But, there are other varieties of St Augustine Grass's like Palmetto which has a thinner leaf blade and deeper roots system than the Raleigh. It is also known for its cold and shade tolerance. The most shade tolerant grass is Amerishade St Augustine which also grows more vertical reducing cuttings by as much as 50%.

Bermuda Grasses have developed widely over the years especially with the specialty grasses used on golf courses. Many neighborhoods are now using Common Bermuda over St Augustine because of its drought tolerance, disease resistance and easy care. But, Bermuda is intolerant of shade which can be a problem between houses and under trees. Bermuda also spreads by seed and can be a nuisance in flowerbeds.

Zoysia is a grass that was once only used on golf courses but is also available for home use. Zoysia's deep root system makes it tolerant of drought and cold. It is very shade tolerant and is also naturally resistant to some of our nuisance insects like chinch bugs. This grass has thin blades that look lush and is very soft to walk on.

These are just a few of the grasses available so it is important to do your homework to find the right grass for your yard.

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